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October 27, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my strong support for the grave marking ceremony and other programs planned for Saturday, June 26 and Sunday, June 27, 2010 in North Royalton, Ohio commemorating the military service of John Shepherd. Born in 1729, Shepherd served during both the French and Indian War and the American Revolution. He lived to tell the tale of Braddock's defeat in July 1755 and was the last survivor of that ill-fated campaign. Shepherd is also believed to be the longest lived soldier of the American Revolution, surviving to the historic age of 117 years, nine months. John Shepherd spent the last years of his long life in North Royalton, where his earthly remains rest unnoticed by most to this day.

The Western Reserve Historical Society's mission is to preserve and interpret the history of Northeast Ohio. The "Western Reserve" refers to the Western Reserve of Connecticut, a portion of land set aside by the Federal Government of the newly formed United States of America in the Northwest Territories. That land had originally been deeded to each of the original thirteen colonies by the kind of England, but after the Revolution each of the new States ceded those claims to the larger constitutional government. Connecticut, especially damaged by the British during the war, asked to retain a portion of that land as reparations. A section in the northeast corner of what in 1803 became the state of Ohio was so reserved. Connecticut promptly sold the land to a private group of investors, The Connecticut Land Company, that surveyed and sold the land in parcels via a lottery system. The first residents of this part of Ohio were, therefore, largely from Connecticut including war veterans.

We look forward to the ceremonies honoring JohnShepard in North Royalton in June 2010.

Sincerely,

Vice President for Exhibits and Special Projects

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*History...Take It Personally!*